

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2504
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
STRENGTHENING OF COAST
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has submitted a proposal to strengthen the coast so as to enable to do joint patrolling of the Western Coast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government provide additional funds to Tamil Nadu, enabling it to meet the extra burden in safeguarding the coastal line from the view point of National Security; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present arrangement for joint coastal patrolling off the Maharashtra and Gujarat Coasts using hired fishing trawlers by the Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat, being considered not effective, Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a proposal to Ministry of Defence for strengthening of the Coast Guard by creating additional capabilities to enable it to take over the responsibility of the joint coastal patrolling. The proposal includes acquisition of 15 Interceptors boats in four phases. Ministry of Home Affairs has proposed to meet the estimated capital expenditure of Rs. 323.16 Crores. Ministry of Defence will need to meet the estimated revenue expenditure. The proposal is presently under examination of Ministry of Defence.

(c) & (d): Considering the vulnerability of the country's coasts to illegal cross border activities, the Government of coastal states including Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory Administrations were advised to prepare perspective plans for coastal security for which certain indicative parameters were identified and circulated to them. Government would provide such assistance as feasible for implementation of the plan.